

KEEP NEW YORK'S FARMS AND AGRIBUSINESS COMPETITIVE



Reject the Governor's Proposal to Eliminate the Farms Products Grading Program and Reduce Kosher Enforcement Staffing.

The governor's proposal to eliminate the Farms Products Grading Program and 20 positions will devastate New York's agricultural farms and industry which provide \$25 billion to New York State's economy.

The Farms Products Grading Program provides essential USDA certification services for New York's agricultural farms and industry:

Fact: USDA certification is necessary for the export of various New York State agricultural commodities such as fruits, vegetables, fish, poultry, eggs and meat, and is necessary for New York State agricultural products to be purchased by government agencies and to facilitate many commercial sales contracts.

Fact: There are no private or governmental entities willing to take over this USDA certification process.

Elimination of the Farms Products Grading Program will:

Fact: Prevent New York State apples from being exported and put our apple producers at a competitive disadvantage with the state of Washington—the nation's #1 apple producer—which provides certification for its apple industry.



Elimination of the Grading Program will prevent New York State agricultural commodities such as fruits, vegetables, fish, poultry, eggs and meat from being exported, or sold to government agencies placing the New York State producers at a disadvantage. It will jeopardize participation in programs such as the Department of Defense Fresh Program, and School Food Plus Initiative which brings over \$3 million in fresh NYS fruits and vegetables to school meals programs.

***The governor's proposal to eliminate 8 positions from the
Kosher Enforcement Division will impair
New York State's burgeoning kosher food industry.***

***New York's immense share of the kosher industry is bolstered by its
effective and respected Kosher Law Enforcement:***



The state claims that it must end kosher food inspections due to a court decision. However, the final court decision on kosher inspections was issued seven years ago and should have no impact on how inspectors have done their job since it was issued.



Continued growth of NY's huge kosher food industry is at stake. Maintaining and strengthening NYS Kosher Law Enforcement's vigilance enhances the kosher integrity of the state as well as its food manufacturers as enforcement ensures that kosher food is properly processed, manufactured, sold, advertised or otherwise represented as kosher.



For the year 2010 it is projected that there will be more than 14 million regular kosher consumers, more than 45 million potential consumers of kosher products, more than \$40 billion spent on all kosher certified products and more than 150,000 packaged goods items to be certified kosher.

*If the governor's proposals are adopted it will result in the elimination of
28 positions within the Department of Agriculture and Markets and cripple
New York's agricultural and food industries at a competitive disadvantage.
The Legislature should restore \$543,000 to support these critical positions.*

**KEEP NY'S AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY COMPETITIVE
BY KEEPING OUR FARM PRODUCTS GRADING PROGRAM &
KOSHER ENFORCEMENT DIVISION FULLY STAFFED**



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